

Seek To Save Tabernacle

HEBER CITY — A petition will be circulated among the people of Wasatch County next week by a citizens' committee intent on saving the historic Wasatch Stake Tabernacle. The committee is headed by Mrs. Ruth Witt, Mrs. Hope Mohr and Mrs. Barbara McDonald.

The decision of the Wasatch Stake presidency, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, to raze the old building and replace it with a new stake and two-ward center was made after a five-year period of study, consultation, and negotiation with the general authorities of the Church.

The building, of New England design, is one of six in the state which was built by early pioneers. It is a tourist attraction, but has become inadequate for the needs of the stake.

The first of August was set for the razing of the tabernacle but as the date approached, sentiment in the community began to mount. As a last ditch stand, a citizens' committee met with the general authorities and asked for 30 days in which to make plans for preserving the pioneer landmark. The following petition will be circulated:

"We, the undersigned, respectfully urge reconsideration of the decision to demolish the old Wasatch Stake house, feeling that there are considerations far beyond the mere dollar and cent value being placed on the prop-

"(2) This restoration could be undertaken as economically as the building of a new chapel for the new stake center.

"(3) The restored stake house would continue to be the architectural attraction of Heber Valley — serving not only the religious needs of the community but also serving as a reminder of the accomplishments of a pioneer society which was willing to work and sacrifice for those things which were held

to be sacred and important.

"(4) That should it be absolutely determined that the stake house is unwanted for religious purposes, that other avenues be explored for its preservation such as public donation."



Fate of Heber City's beautiful old tabernacle still hangs in the balance as citizens rally to save it. Structure was scheduled to be razed beginning Aug. 1.



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